

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 04898 161854Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3741

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SAIGON 4898

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TAGS: PFOR, VS

SUBJECT: GVN PRESS CONFERENCE ON CAPTURE OF TONG LE CHAN(CONT'D)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: SAIGON 4897

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 04898 161854Z

1. IN ADDITION TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S DECLARATION REPORTED REFTEL GENERAL HIEP ALSO READ AND HANDED OUT HIS OWN. THIS ONE RECOUNTED HISTORY OF TONG LE CHAN BASE SINCE PARIS AGREEMENTS, DESCRIBED ITS CAPTURE, AND ENDED UP WITH THE FOLLOWING SEVEN NUMBERED "RVN MILITARY DELEGATION" STATEMENTS:

2. BEGIN TEXT. THE OVER-RUN OF THE TONG LE CHAN BASE BY THE COMMUNISTS IS CLEARLY A BLATANT AND PREMEDITATED VIOLATION, AIMED AT DESTROYING THE RVN DEFENSE SYSTEM IN THIS AREA IN ORDER TO PAVE THE WAY FOR LARGER ATTACKS IN THE FUTURE.

3. THE COMMUNIST SIDE MUST BEAR FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RESULTS OF THEIR ACTION AND ESPECIALLY FOR THEIR OVER-RUN OF TONG LE CHAN.

4. ONCE AGAIN, THE RVN MILITARY DELEGATION REITERATES ITS DETERMINATION TO IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND TO RESOLUTELY STRUGGLE IN ORDER TO FORCE THE COMMUNISTS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS SIGNED BY THE PARTIES. HOWEVER. THE RVN MILITARY DELEGATION WILL NOT LET THE COMMUNISTS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE AGREEMENT TO ACHIEVE THEIR AIM OF TAKING OVER SOUTH VIETNAM AND OF CONTINUING THEIR WAR OF AGGRESSION, OF USING THE JMC AS A PROPAGANDA FORUM TO SLANDER AND INSULT THE GOVERNMENT, THE ARMED FORCES AND THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

5. THE COMMUNISTS MUST IMMEDIATELY AND UNCONDITIONALLY RETURN THE TONG LE CHAN BASE TO THE RVN, RELEASE THE WOUNDED SOLDIERS AND THOSE THEY CAPTURED AT TONG LE CHAN AND COMPENSATE THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS THEY KILLED.

6. THE ICCS, A BODY ESTABLISHED BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT, NEEDS TO BE AWARE OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AND OBLIGATIONS AND SHOULD ACT IN AN ENTIRELY IMPARTIAL WAY AND FORCE THE COMMUNISTS TO SCRUPULOUSLY IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENT, TO PUT AN END TO THEIR VIOLATIONS AND ENCROACHMENTS AND CONCRETELY, TO RETURN TO THE RVN ALL THE WOUNDED AND CAPTURED SOLDIERS AT TONG LE CHAN ON APRIL 12, 1974.

7. WITH ALL GOODWILL AND TRADITIONAL SENSE OF HOSPITALITY, THE RVN REITERATES THAT THE 11 POINTS OF IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES WILL

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PAGE 03 SAIGON 04898 161854Z

STILL BE ACCORDED TO THE COMMUNIST SIDE TO THE JMC, BUT IT ALSO RESOLUTELY DEMANDS THE COMMUNIST SIDE TO USE THESE PREROGATIVES ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING THE PARIS AGREEMENT, ITS PROTOCOLS AND THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE. THE RVN MILITARY DELEGATION SHALL RESERVE ITS RIGHT TO REVISE, RESTRICT OR SUPPRESS THE PARTIAL OR TOTAL ACCORDANCE OF THESE 11 POINTS DEPENDING ON THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ABUSES OF THESE PREROGATIVES, ABUSES WHICH MAY ENDANGER THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

8. THE RVN MILITARY DELEGATION SHARES THE SORROW OF THE FAMILIES OF THE FELLOWS AND COMRADES IN ARMS, KILLED AND CAPTURED BY THE COMMUNISTS AT TONG LE CHAN. END TEXT.

9. MOST NOTEWORTHY STATEMENTS MADE IN QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD WERE AS FOLLOWS:

10. GEN. HIEP: IT IS TRUE THAT THE COMMUNIST SIDE HAS AT TPJMC MEETINGS SAID IT WOULD NOT ATTACK GVN BASES IF NO MILITARY ACTIVITY WERE CONDUCTED FROM THEM. THIS WAS AN UNREASONABLE COMMUNIST DEMAND AS ARVN UNITS HAVE OBSERVED THE CEASE-FIRE AND STAYED IN PLACE WHILE THE VC/NVA, CLAIMING ITS UNITS ARE MOBILE, HAVE NOT.

11. FOREIGN MINISTER BAC: GVN DOES NOT INTEND TO STOP TALKS AT LA CELLE-ST. CLUD, ONLY TO SUSPEND ITS PARTICIPATION. THE GVN DELEGATION REMAINS IN PARIS AND THE SUSPENSION WILL END WHEN CONCRETE ACTIONS SHOW THE OTHER SIDE'S GOOD WILL. ANYONE CAN IMAGINE WHAT KIND OF CONCRETE ACTION WOULD SUFFICE. THE GVN STAND IS SERIOUS AND CORRECT SINCE ONLY IF THERE IS MUTUAL GOOD-WILL CAN THESE TALKS GET RESULTS; OTHERWISE THEY ONLY DECEIVE THE PEOPLE.

12. MINISTER OF INFORMATION NHA FIELDER AS FOLLOWS A REPORTER'S QUESTION AS TO WHY THE RETURN OF TONG LE CHAN WAS NOT A PRECONDITION FOR RESUMPTION OF LA CELLE-ST. CLOUD TALKS: THE TONG LE CHAN INCIDENT MUST NOT BE TAKEN IN ISOLATION OR EVEN AS JUST THE FALL OF AN OUTPOST AS IT WAS A BASE FOR CONTROLLING THE SURROUNDING TERRITORY. THE CAPTURE REPRESENTS A BREAK IN THE NORTHERN DEFENSE PERIMETER OF SAIGON AND HAS A DIRECT BEARING ON THE SECURITY OF TAY NINH, PHUOC LONG, AND BINH DUONG. WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT BEFORE AGREEING TO RESUME TALKS AT LA CELLE-UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 SAIGON 04898 161854Z

ST. CLOUD IS THE LARGER ISSUE OF CONVINCING THE COMMUNISTS TO RESPECT THE CEASE-FIRE.

13. GEN. HIEP: THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM CAN CONTINUE TO ENJOY THEIR SPECIFIED PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES ONLY IF THESE CONTRIBUTE TO RESTORING PEACE. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF ARRESTING THE 300 OR SO VN PERSONNEL NOW AT TAN SON NHUT AND HOLDING THEM AS HOSTAGES. FLIGHTS TO LOC NINH HAVE BEEN CANCELLED FOR TIME BEING BUT THIS DOES NOT PREVENT CONTACT BETWEEN VC AT TAN SON NHUT AND LOC NINH AS THEY CAN USE THE RADIO FACILITIES PROVIDED TO THEM BY GVN. FLIGHTS WILL BE RESUMED UPON PROFF OF VN GOODWILL.

14. FOREIGN MINISTER BAC: THE RECONVENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON VIETNAM IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL THE PARTICIPANTS.

GVN HAS SIMPLY BEEN CALLING ATTENTION OF PARTICIPANTS TO CEASE-
FIRE VIOLATIONS SO THAT THEY COULD CONSULT TOGETHER AND TAKE
APPROPRIATE ACTION. THE FACT THAT MEETINGS OF TPJMC ARE STILL
GOING ON AND THAT PRIVILEGES AND I
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